

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.- Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in passing H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act, by a vote of 219 to 212. This bill revitalizes our economy by creating millions of new jobs, increases our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and protects our planet by reducing the pollution that causes global warming.

“Aside from the important provisions in this bill to combat global warming, this legislation unleashes private sector investment in clean energy to create 1.7 million new jobs across America and New Jersey that cannot be shipped overseas. It will be clean energy technology-made right here in America,” expressed Congressman Sires.

Specifically, H.R. 2454 would establish a Renewable Electricity Standard to require electric utility companies to meet a certain percentage of their load with electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and burning waste to energy. The bill also focuses on reducing dangerous carbon emissions that cause global warming by limiting emissions from electric utilities, oil refineries, and other major sources to be implemented in 2012. In particular, this bill would reduce carbon emissions from major U.S. sources by 17% by 2020 and over 80% by 2050.

To help reach the goal of a clean American economy, this bill would also make bold investments in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency, including cleaner coal technology with carbon capture sequestration, and efficient vehicles, and place new energy saving standards on buildings, appliances, and industry. Additionally, this legislation would protect consumers from energy price increases through price spike protections and additional monthly energy refunds. Furthermore, H.R. 2454 would provide incentives to mortgage lenders to provide lower interest loans to consumers who build, buy, or remodel homes and businesses to improve the building's energy efficiency.

“For years, New Jersey has been a leader in fighting global warming. This legislation will build on New Jersey’s initiatives to promote a clean energy economy and break our dependence on foreign oil, all while providing consumers with the necessary protections from rising energy costs,” stated Congressman Sires

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